

June 6, 1999

2904 '99 JUN 14 P1:53

Dr. Jane Henney
Commissioner
U.S. FDA
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney,

I am very concerned about the overuse of antibiotics and the resulting increase of antibiotic resistant bacteria. Therefore, I am requesting your support in banning the use of human antibiotics in animal feeds.

Health threats from antibiotic resistant bacteria continue to grow. As more people suffer infections that are difficult to treat and occasionally deadly, these problems are approaching a crisis stage. For example, 90% of Staph bacteria are now resistant to penicillin. In addition, recent testing of raw meats have shown that 34% were positive for a strain of salmonella that is resistant to five different antibiotics.

As a result, I am requesting that the FDA implement a 1997 World Health Organization recommendation ending the use, in animal feed, of all antibiotics used in human medicine, as well as closely related drugs. This, along with an effort by the medical community to curb inappropriate prescriptions of antibiotics, is the only way to insure that common bacterial infections will not pose deadly consequences to the health of the public.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

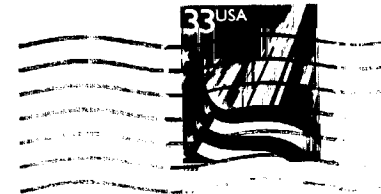


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